

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: Senate Bill 473

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Environment – Recycling – Public School Plans

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill requires that a County Recycling Plan, submitted as part of a County's 10-year Solid Waste Management plan, and required to be reviewed every three (3) years and updated as necessary, include a strategy addressing the collection, processing, marketing, and disposition of recyclable materials from county public schools. Each County would be required to update its plan by October 1, 2010 to include the county public school recycling strategy.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: Waste diversion and recycling saves energy, reduces green house gasses and other pollutants generated in the manufacturing process and at landfills, saves natural resources, and reduces the amount of waste disposed at waste disposal facilities. Even in this time of lowered market returns on recyclables, there continue to be avoided disposal costs with recycling. Local governments currently manage solid waste and recycling activities for their jurisdictions and, although the bill requires a new level of effort for county governments, counties currently have the authority to enhance their school recycling efforts. Recycling in our schools will demonstrate to our youth the importance of recycling away from home and should result in increases in county recycling and waste diversion rates.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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